(b) what are the foreign missions handling bulk of the commercial communications, dealing with foreign investors; and

(c) whether the requirement of staff and equipment of commercial sections in major diplomatic missions has been assessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir. Regular commercial wings exist in Missions that are important from the economic and commercial stand point. Following the introduction of new economic policies of the Government, required strengthening has been carried out where needed and computers and other office equipment is also being provided.

(b) The Missions which have significant interaction with foreign investors are those located in North America, West Europe, East and South East Asia and the Gulf.

(c) Yes Sir.

CBI inquiry into controversial note on Bofors gun deal

4688. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI) has failed to identify the lawyer who handed over the controversial go-slow note on Bofors to the former Foreign Minister Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that further search for the man is given up by the C.B.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The CBI has not been able to identify the lawyer.

(b) The CBI made inquiries in this regard from Shri Solanki who could not reveal any relevant information.

(c) According to the CBI, no further efforts are feasible.

MTCR Membership to India

4689. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government, at any time, offered or approached India to join as a full member or an adherent state to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR);

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such membership and the reaction of the Indian Government thereto;

(c) whether General Dynamics made an offer for the supply of cryogenic engines or technology to ISRO;

(d) whether such offer was made with the approval of the US Government; and

(e) the details of the offer and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The US has aksd India to consider adopting the MTCR guidelines.

(b) The MTCR is not a treaty. It is a set of export guidelines restricting transfers of missiles and missile related technology which countries implement through their national legislation. These guidelines are open to all nations to adopt. Government are committed to international efforts to promote general and complete disarmament under effective international controls which are universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected.

(e) The offer consisted of the supply of General Dynamics' latest complete cryogenic engine and stage Centaur, for use in GSLV, without any technology transfer. Since the offer did not involve technology transfer and fell short of ISRO's requirements, negotiations with General Dynamics were terminated in March, 1990.

Indians in Afghanistan

4690. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of people of Indian origin settled in Afghanistan;

(b) what is the number of families that have migrated from Afghanistan in the wake of changing political situation in the country;

(c) whether the refugees from Afghanistan are being settled and what is the nature of assistance being provided by the Government for their resettlement in the country; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government for the safety of lives and property of the people of Indian origin still in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Out of around forty thousand Afghan nationals of Indians origin settled in various parts of Afghanistan, twenty thousand persons are estimated to have left Afghanistan due to unsettled conditions.

(c) Government are in touch with some representatives of these Afghan nationals and will render all assistance considered necessary when required.

(d) Protection of the lives and property of Afghan nationals of Indian origin is the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan with whom the matter has been discussed on several occasions.

Prime Minister's visit to RIO

4691. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Heads of Governments with whom Prime Minister had discussions on international and bilateral matters during his visit to RIO summit; and

(b) the broad details of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) At Rio, PM met the President of Brazil, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Indonesia, Mozambique and Mexico; the Prime Ministers of China, Nepal and Pakistan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. Bilateral issues as well as important issues including environment and development were discussed at these meetings.

Filling up of posts of Ambassadors

4692. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure of fillling the post of the Ambassadors; and

(b) whether in anticipation of vanacncy to occur process of filling the vacancy is undertaken early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The appointments of Ambassadors